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Touchscreen homes
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It is no secret that technology propels growth. The housing sector is no exception to this rule. What was regarded as luxury yesterday, is pretty much a necessity today.

Automated homes for instance. These special houses where things get done at the press of a button, have often been perceived to be elitist in nature. But then a decade ago, so were air conditioners. Smart homes reflect the changing styles which have woven technology into our lives.

Take the eHomes by DesignArch Infrastructure in Ghaziabad and Greater Noida, Delhi's satellite towns, apartments meant to fulfill your dream to live in a sci-fi space, wherein the entire house is 'smart'.

What's so smart about them? You can switch on your lights and air conditioning and also have your favourite music playing when you reach home from work. The lights can be set according to your mood, even before you step into your pad. All you have to do is to "call up" your intelligent home and speak out the password for whatever needs to be done. Superb, isn't it?

More follows. You can allow or disallow people to visit you, by identifying them through a one-way audio or a two-way video conferencing at the society gate, and to be surer, you can double-check by following the same procedure at the apartment door.

All log reports of visitors to your apartment would be transferred to your e-mail, so you can keep tabs on your house even when you are away. All this—and more—is done through an automated panel inside your home that acts as the brain and sends out signals to all your appliances, stores your favourite music (up to 3000 songs), and can act as an alarm for switching appliances, too.

With flat-to-flat video-conferencing, biometric safety systems, sensor lights and wi-fi access in all apartments, techno-living has definitely been taken to another level. Plus there is the automated multi-level parking for your cool wheels.

The trend is catching on. Rohan Builders have constructed digital homes in Pune. "All the electrical gadgets can be controlled and operated through radio frequency and infra red remote systems," says Mahesh Nair, electronic engineer with Rohan Builders.

Ditto in Ghaziabad. "I came across various kinds of innovations in other countries during my travels as an architect and thought about replicating the model here," says JK Jain, chairman and MD of DesignArch. He adds that the entire concept of automated homes is about improving the quality of life for the people.